

THE CRIME OF A MANIAC.

Mount Vernon, Michigan, the Scene
of a Terrible Triple
Tragedy.

William Major Kills His Wife,
Daughter and His Baby

**A Little Son Saves Himself by Crawling
Under a Bed—Suicide of the**

ROCASTER, Mich., Dec. 28.—A cold-blooded triple murder was committed two miles north of Mount Vernon last night by William Major, who killed his wife, daughter and granddaughter. Major, who is 50 years old and a well-to-do farmer, went to Rome yesterday and came home cheerful. His daughter, Mrs. Joseph Depew, of Brandon, and her little daughter, were visiting the house, and after a conversation the family retired. The people were but fairly asleep when Major arose and began the work of slaughter. He took a revolver and

shot his wife as she lay asleep, putting two bullets into her body mortally wounding her. The noise of the shooting awakened the others, but the murderer did not hesitate. Springing into the apartment occupied by his daughter and her child he coolly fired at Mrs. Depew, and when he failed to kill her, he procured an ax and knoed her down. He then killed the little grand daughter from under the bed clothing and with one blow of the ax split her head open, killing her instantly. Major then rushed into a room where his little son slept and groped about the bed for him. The little lad had crawled under the bed for safety. As he heard his father searching the room he said: "Are you going to kill me, too, papa?"

"No, my son," replied the murderer, "do not be afraid, I won't hurt you. You'll not be any more you can get \$150 which I will leave you and divide it with your sister."

Then he hastened from the house. The boy gave an alarm as soon as he could, and the neighbors found Mrs. May still alive.

She cannot survive, however. The other two were instantly killed.

Dr. Major's body was to-day found in a barn. He had committed suicide by hanging.

EIGHT SHOT AT ONE TIME.

Lynchers in the South Take the Law in Their Own Hands.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 28.—A mob of several hundred men reached the jail at Barnwell court house at 2 o'clock this morning, overpowered the jailer and took out eight negroes charged with murder. These were Ripley Johnson and Mitchell Adams, charged with murdering a man named Hefernan, and six others charged with murdering of Martin. The prisoners were taken out of town and shot to death. The jailer was tied and forced to accompany the lynchers. The whole thing was conducted in a very skillful manner, the citizens of the town being all in agreement about it. A great number of negroes are collected at the

scene of the lynching and more trouble is anticipated.

The following statement, signed by Robert Aldrich, Mike Brown, George H. Bates, William McNabe and James A. Jenkins, some of the most prominent and influential citizens of the county, was read by the Courier in explanation of the horrible butchery of defenseless people at that place last night. (Oct. 30 last) John H. Peiffer, an elderly, well-to-do, law-abiding, un-spirited citizen, was shot down and killed in Burnsville by negroes. Public indignation ran very high, threats of lynching being made by the mob. The county attorney counsel. At the last term of court the grand jury found true bills against the murderers and their accessories, but the negroes were not indicted. The whites were disappointed, and the negroes, it is thought, were emboldened by this disposition of the matter. Dec. 1, 1900, Mike Brown, a prominent leader and a leading citizen of Fish Pond township, was shot to death on his own premises by negroes without the slightest provocation. He was a peace-loving man, not been arrested, December 14th, while going from the store at Martin's station to his home, a mile away. Robert Martin, a prominent citizen, was shot and killed by a negro and shot in the hearing of

negroes, whose houses were all around the spot where he was shot, and who admit that they heard the shot and cries, and some of them saw the negro as he lay on the road for several hours after daylight in plain view of them all.

It was satisfactorily established that his murder was the result of a conspiracy to remove him in order that their license upon the plantation of his father might be greater. The murderer, that is the negro who fired the shot and his accessories, nine in all, were afterwards taken before the coroner's jury, were arrested and lodged in jail. These several brutal murders of prominent white men by negroes caused a great deal of indignation and excitement among the whites, and it was generally expected that the negroes could be better informed, as described, but cannot be imagined by anyone not present in our midst. Last night a large body of armed men, in disguise, at the instigation of the negroes, broke into the jailer, took out the six murderers of Marten and two of Hefferman, took them to the limits of the expedition and shot

them to death. This explanation of the causes which led to the lynching does not in the opinion of law-abiding citizens in any way justify the atrocious murder of eight defenseless human beings. This greatest indignation is expressed at the brutality. And it is greatly aggravated into this extent, although trouble has been anticipated and may yet come.

Crime in New Hampshire.

CONCORD, N. H., Dec. 28.—In view of the perpetration of various heinous crimes in the state recently, Governor Goddell to-day issued a proclamation attributing them to failure to enforce the prohibitory laws, and calling on all municipal and other officers and law-abiding citizens to use their best efforts toward securing their enforcement.

Short in His Accounts.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 23.—The sensation of

the day here is the discovery that Monasch, financial secretary of the Turners' Building and Loan association, is short in his accounts. The discrepancy is estimated at \$25,000. Monasch is anxious to make a settlement and it is not likely a criminal prosecution will follow.

Three Fatally Injured.
CINCINNATI, Dec. 28.—An explosion in a sawdust chute in the showense manufactory of Schmitt & Co., this afternoon, injured three persons fatally. E. Lense went into the cellar with a lighted candle, and going near the chute an explosion followed.